

and angry that their forced dues are being used to finance political campaigns they do not support.

It is sad that Washington's labor bosses care more about their own power than they do about the truth or the views of their members. They benefited enormously from the growing Federal Government under the old majority. And they are not about to sit idly by as the power that was once theirs is returned to its rightful owners, the people.

If we allow fear to triumph, we can just wave goodbye to a balanced budget, middle-class tax relief, and welfare reform, and say hello to higher taxes and more debt on the backs of our children.

It is up to the American people. Will it be snake oil and fear, or truth and courage?

RECOGNITION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC

HON. ANDREA H. SEASTRAND

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, San Luis Obispo County a few years ago launched a strategic plan to diversify its economic base. One of the key players was Pacific Gas Electric Co. which with local leaders and stakeholders forged a long-term community economic development plan.

For its role, PG&E was recognized with the Edison Electric Institute's Common Goals Special Distinction Award for customer satisfaction. Tapan Monroe, PG&E's chief economist and manager of Community Economic Vitality Initiatives, came to Washington to receive the award from EEI President Thomas R. Kuhn in a Capitol Hill ceremony.

PG&E and other San Luis Obispo County businesses and interests staged an unprecedented regional conference that drew more than 400 attendees. One result was the establishment of the San Luis Obispo County Economic Vitality Corporation, a nonprofit unit tasked with creating jobs and increasing investment in the county.

Dennis Hennessy, PG&E division manager, and his staff were involved in organizing the nonprofit corporation. PG&E continues to provide staff and consultant resources. PG&E employee Missie Hobson serves on the board and chairs the Community Preparedness Committee.

I commend all the partners and their good work in the San Luis Obispo County. Congratulations to PG&E on winning the EEI Common Goals Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF KIRBY WILSON, GOLD MEDALIST IN COURAGE

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, over the last few weeks in Atlanta, we have adorned many Americans with Olympic medals as a testament to their dedication and courage. Today,

I rise to pay tribute to another true champion of courage, Kirby Wilson.

This special girl resides in Western Springs, IL, which is located in my congressional district. Kirby recently celebrated her 5th birthday with friends and family, where she received many gifts, such as a doll, bubbles, and kites. It would appear that Kirby enjoys a normal, healthy life, but unfortunately, she possesses a rare genetic disease. The illness, called Sanfilippo Syndrome, causes children to miss an essential enzyme that breaks down a complex body sugar. Consequently, the sugar slowly builds in the brain and stops normal development. Kirby's health will deteriorate as the disease produces hyperactivity, sleep disorders, loss of speech, mental retardation, dementia, and finally, death before she reaches age 15.

Unfortunately, there exists no cure for Sanfilippo Syndrome. Moreover, it is difficult to gather researchers and raise money for Sanfilippo Syndrome because it occurs in just 1 of every 24,000 births. Many lawmakers support funding more well-known diseases such as breast cancer and AIDS. These lawmakers feel that it is imperative to distribute funds that affect the most people. However, this should not diminish the severity of Kirby's heartbreaking situation. Thus, I have written a letter to Dr. Harold Varmus, Director of the National Institutes of Health, in support of funding research specifically for Sanfilippo Syndrome.

Meanwhile, Kirby's parents, Brad and Sue Wilson, have taken the initiative to form The Children's Medical Research Foundation. Kirby's parents have implemented hard work and sacrifice for the organization to engage in an active fundraising campaign. Brad and Sue Wilson planned the "Sweetheart Dinner Dance," "Kirby by Candlelight," and "The Fore Kirby Golf Fun Raiser." With the help of Kirby's friends, school, church, and family, these events have raised more than \$140,000 for the Children's Medical Research Foundation. This is a testament to the good that can result from people working together for a common cause.

Due to the success of its fundraising, the Foundation has awarded a \$40,000 research grant to Dr. Margaret Jones at Michigan State University. Currently, the Foundation is planning to issue a \$100,000 research grant to Dr. Chet Whitley at University of Minnesota. Dr. Whitley will collaborate with Dr. Elizabeth Neufeld, a UCLA researcher that recently won the National Medal of Science for her exemplary research on the Sanfilippo Syndrome. The work accomplished through his research will benefit not only Kirby Wilson, but future children that will be diagnosed with the disease.

Mr. Speaker, if courage was an Olympic sport, Kirby and her parents would earn a gold medal. I only hope that one day, researchers will develop a cure to save Kirby and others afflicted with Sanfilippo Syndrome.

THE ISSUES OF THE TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, the issues of the Tongass National Forest have

been before the Congress for some time. Many of us were here in 1990 for the Tongass Timber Reform Act, which set aside 1 million acres of wilderness and unilaterally modified the two long-term timber contracts. Some of us remember the Alaska Lands Act of 1980, which set aside about 5 million acres of Tongass wilderness. But no current member was here for the first act of Congress specific to the Tongass—the Tongass Timber Act of 1947, which authorized the sale of timber from the Tongass for the purpose of local employment. At a time when debate over the Tongass becomes every day more contentious and confused it may be worthwhile to look back to that act. This history is relevant because the problems the 1947 act worked to solve are being recreated today by a handful of extremists.

The 1947 act was the culmination of a quarter-century-long effort to develop a stable, year-round industry in southeast Alaska. Before Congress authorized the sale of timber, thereby inducing the pulp companies to invest in Alaska, there was not much of an economy in southeast. Fishing was poor, tourism was nonexistent and the gold mines had been closed during the war. The population was small and transient—it was a hard place to raise a family. Congress decided, and President Truman agreed, that the sale of timber through long-term contracts would improve the situation, stabilize the economy of southeast Alaska and serve the interests of Alaska and the United States.

The contracts were in the interest of Alaska because they fostered a prosperous and stable economy. They were in the interest of the United States because Tongass forest products helped supply the post-war housing boom in the United States and were instrumental in the reconstruction of Japan. The contracts were necessary for defense purposes as well—Alaska had proven vulnerable in World War II and needed a stable population to secure the territory. All of these benefits were recognized in the House report that accompanied the 1947 Tongass Timber Act:

A large-scale development of the timber resources in southeastern Alaska, involving the establishment of important business enterprises and the employment of many persons for extensive operations on a year-round basis, is essential to the maintenance of a prosperous and stable economy in the Territory. Heretofore, Alaska has been handicapped by the seasonal nature of the principal industrial activities conducted within the area. A timber program of the sort mentioned by the Secretary of the Interior would be of great benefit in assisting the people of Alaska to progress from the present dependence upon seasonal business operations. Moreover, such a development within the Territory would be of great value to the Nation as a whole, both from the standpoint of making available to the National economy valuable and sorely needed products from the great forests in southeastern Alaska and from the standpoint of promoting national defense through increasing the population and industrial capacity of Alaska as our "Northern Rampart." House Committee on Agriculture, Report No. 873, July 10, 1947.

The Tongass timber industry was essential to those ends in 1947 and it remains so today. We still need a year-round economy in southeast Alaska. We still need a domestic supply of forest products to meet national and international demand. We still need a stable population base in Alaska for our national security.